Travis Air Force Base NPL

Size: 6,277 acres
Mission: Provide air refueling and strategic airlift services for troops, cargo, and equipment
HRS Score: 29.49; placed on NPL in November 1989
IAG Status: Federal Facility Agreement signed in September 1990 and amended in May 1993, October 1995, July 1996, November 1997, and July 1998
Contaminants: VOCs, heavy metals, and PAHs
Media Affected: Groundwater, surface water, sediment, and soil
Funding to Date: $64.2 million
Estimated Cost to Completion (Completion Year): $85.5 million (FY2188)
Final Remedy in Place or Response Complete Date for All Sites: FY2005

Solano County, California

Restoration Background

Travis Air Force Base has supported Air Force operations since 1943. Historical activities at the base have resulted in numerous releases of fuels, solvents, and petroleum/oils/lubricants, which migrated into groundwater. Since FY85, studies have identified a number of sites, including old landfills, a closed sewage treatment plant, four fire training areas, disposal pits, spill areas, the storm sewage drainage system, a pesticide disposal site, and a low-level radioactive waste burial site. In FY93, the Air Force divided the installation into four operable units (OUs).

The Air Force implemented several Interim Actions at the installation, including removal of 27 underground storage tanks. Granular activated carbon treatment systems were installed to treat groundwater contaminated with trichloroethene (TCE) at a storm sewer outfall in Union Creek and a source area for the installation's largest TCE groundwater plume. Treatability Studies were conducted in FY94 on the use of horizontal wells, two-phase extraction systems, bioventing, and bioslurping. The installation also completed an analysis of the feasibility of applying intrinsic remediation to petroleum-contaminated groundwater beneath the base gasoline station.

The installation completed field investigations and Remedial Investigation (RI) reports for all OUs. It also completed one TCE Removal Action at the storm sewer outfall and implemented another TCE Removal Action incorporating horizontal extraction wells and two-phase extraction technology. In FY95, the installation formed a Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) and established the RAB Relative Risk Focus Group to address restoration priorities, the Technical Review Focus Group to review draft documents, and the Community Relations Focus Group to disseminate information to the public.

In FY96, the installation developed a model to help set priorities among high-relative-risk sites for Remedial Action (RA). The installation developed a chemical reference handbook for the public that describes the contaminants at the installation and their potential effects on human health and the environment. It combined the North, East, and West Industrial OUs into a single OU (NEWIOU) for the Feasibility Study (FS), the Proposed Plan, and the Record of Decision (ROD). The FS for the NEWIOU and the Proposed Plan for the groundwater part of the NEWIOU were completed.

In FY97, the RI for the West/Annexes/Basewide OU (WABOU) and the expansion of the Interim Action for the installation's largest TCE-contaminated groundwater plume were completed.

FY98 Restoration Progress

Dates for two draft RODs were revised in the Federal Facility Agreement (FFA) and agreed to by all parties. An interim ROD for groundwater in NEWIOU was completed and signed by the Air Force, EPA, the California Department of Toxic Substances Control, and the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board. The NEWIOU Proposed Plan for surface water, sediment, and soil was completed and public comments received. The base completed the FS and Proposed Plans for groundwater and soil sites at WABOU.

RA began at two of three sites from which contaminated groundwater has migrated off site. The third site is awaiting a final access agreement with the landowner. Interim Remedial Actions (IRAs) began at two additional sites. Interim Remedial Design began on 14 other groundwater sites.

The installation has developed a model for evaluating the effectiveness of natural attenuation in groundwater contaminated with fuel and chlorinated solvents. A two-phase extraction well was installed a year ahead of schedule in a suspected area of free-phase TCE.

The RAB meets quarterly.

Plan of Action

- Begin IRA on the last groundwater plume that extends off base and complete IRAs at all three sites with off-base groundwater plumes in FY99
- Complete the WABOU groundwater interim ROD and the soil ROD in FY99
- Complete the NEWIOU soil, sediment, and surface water ROD in FY99
- Complete Removal Actions at two soil sites and IRAs at seven additional groundwater sites in FY99
- Begin construction of a landfill cap in FY00
- Begin RA at five soil sites in FY00
- Complete IRA at all groundwater sites in FY00

FY99 Funding by Phase and Relative Risk